

VZCZCXRO3754
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3701
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2434
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2552
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1052
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1828
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 2183
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2608
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 5036
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFIS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1701
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001029

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B.WALCH
DRL FOR N. WILETT
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/18/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: MDC DETAINEES REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR, US ACTION
REQUESTED

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

¶1. (U) ACTION REQUESTED, SEE PARAGRAPH 5.

¶2. (SBU) From October 27 until November 1, Zimbabwean security authorities seized 12 individuals, including a mother and two-year old child, affiliated with the MDC. They include local and national officials. The adults are reportedly being interrogated for alleged involvement in paramilitary camps in Botswana.

¶3. (U) On November 12, High Court judge Charles Hungwe issued court orders to Home Affairs Minister Kembo Mohadi, Police Commissioner Augustine Chihuri, Homicide Investigations commander Chrispen Makedenge, and a Detective Constable Muhuya to immediately produce the 12 individuals whose whereabouts were unknown to their lawyers.

¶4. (C) Alec Muchadehama, a lawyer for the detained individuals told us he had heard from contacts within the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO) that the detainees had been shuffled by police and CIO officials between various police stations. Muchadehama said GOZ officials had refused to obey Judge Hungwe's order and continued to deny knowledge of the whereabouts of the MDC members. He requested assistance in publicizing this incident in order to put pressure on the GOZ to produce his clients in court.

¶5. (C) ACTION REQUEST: We suggest that the Department consider issuing a statement along the following lines: "Reliable reports indicate that 12 individuals including a mother and two-year old child were abducted by government security agents between October 27 and November 1. Despite a court order issued on November 12, the government has refused them access to their attorneys and has failed to produce them in court. We call upon the Government of Zimbabwe to adhere to the lawful court order and to minimum standards of due process by allowing the detained individuals immediate access to attorneys, and by producing them in court." END ACTION REQUEST.

McGee